

BS- customer information, including a request for a reservation for the parking space, from the customer communication device. The reservation communication device transmits electronic navigation information to the customer communication device associated with the customer over a communication link responsive to the customer making the reservation. The electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the parking space reserved by the customer.

REMARKS

Claims 12, 20, 38 and 44 have been amended to better define the invention. Changes to the specification are shown in the attached Appendix A ("VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE") with additions underlined and deletions in brackets.

The Abstract was objected to as containing greater than 150 words. The Abstract has been amended to contain less than 150 words, therefore the Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 12-14, 16-25 and 38-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zeitman (U.S. Pat. No. 5,940,481) in view of Yoshida (U.S. Patent No. 5,877,704). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because neither Yoshida nor Zeitman, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the claimed receiving of electronic navigation information upon receiving confirmation information, where the geographic location of the customer and the business geographic location are capable of differing.

Zeitman discloses a parking management communication system. The communication system is used to report parking, monitor parking and reserve parking spaces. A user reserves a parking facility by using an interface unit such as a computer terminal and a modem to communicate with a central control unit. The user may select a parking facility and send a message to the control unit to reserve the facility. The control unit then registers the reservation. The next time a potential user other than the user who registered the reservation wishes to park

in the reserved parking facility and communicates with the central control unit, the potential user will receive a message that the facility is already reserved.

Yoshida discloses a parking-site reservation control system. The entire reservation control system operates at the parking-site. The business geographic location and the customer geographic location are always the same geographic location. For example, Fig. 1 depicts "an overall structural view of the parking-site reservation control system," relating to Yoshida invention. Fig. 20 shows a parking-site advisory display shown at a parking-site advisory location. The system operates with L-shaped masts disposed at suitable intervals along roads of the parking site. The L-shaped masts support an overhead road device. Only when a vehicle enters the parking-site to pass within the communication area of the overhead road device of the L-shaped masts, i.e., when the customer location is the business location, communication is performed between a device installed on the vehicle and the overhead road device.

Conversely, the present invention recites a combination reservation and navigation system, where upon receiving confirmation information, electronic navigation information assists a customer in traveling from a geographic location of the customer to a geographic location of the business. As the Office Action notes, Zeitman does not disclose this. Moreover, unlike the systems of Yoshida, in the system of the present invention the geographic location of the customer and the geographic location of the business are capable of differing. Therefore, neither Yoshida nor Zeitman, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the claimed receiving of electronic navigation information "wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer, where the geographic location and the business location are capable of differing."


For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 12-14, 16-25 and 38-47 be withdrawn.

Claims 15 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zeitman and Yoshida, and further in view of Sehr (U.S. Pat. No. 6,085,976). Applicants respectfully tranvers.

Claim 15 depends from claim 12 and claim 22 depends from claim 20. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claims 12 and 20, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 15 and 22 also be withdrawn.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4224 if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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Appendix A

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Please amend claims 12, 20, 38 and 44 as follows:

12. A method performed by a customer communication device operated by a customer, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising the steps of:

accessing reservation information representing a good or a service that may be reserved by customers from one of a plurality of businesses;

making a request for a reservation of the good or the service responsive to the step of accessing the reservation information;

receiving confirmation information, representing that the reservation has been made for the good or the service associated with one of the plurality of businesses, responsive to the step of making the request; and

receiving electronic navigation information from a reservation communication device over a communication link responsive to the step of receiving the confirmation information, wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer, where the geographic location and the business location are capable of differing.

20. A method performed by a customer communication device operated by a customer, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising the steps of:

accessing reservation information representing a good or a service that may be reserved by customers from one of a plurality of businesses;

making a request for a reservation of the good or the service responsive to the step of accessing the reservation information;

receiving confirmation information, representing that the reservation has been made for the good or the service associated with one of the plurality of businesses, responsive to the step of making the request;

transmitting a request for electronic navigation information responsive to the step of receiving the confirmation information, wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer, where the geographic location and the business location are capable of differing;

receiving the electronic navigation information from a reservation communication device over a communication link responsive to the step of transmitting the request for the electronic navigation information; and

communicating the confirmation information to the one of the plurality of businesses located at the business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer responsive to the customer arriving at the business geographic location.

38. A customer communication device, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising:

a first communication interface adapted to communicate customer information, including reservation information and electronic navigation information, between the customer communication device and a reservation communication device, wherein the reservation information represents a good or a service that may be reserved by customers from one of a plurality of businesses, and wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer, where the geographic location and the business location are capable of differing;

a memory unit coupled to the first communication interface and adapted to store the customer information received via the first communication interface; and

a controller coupled to the first communication interface and the memory unit and adapted to perform the steps of:

accessing the reservation information via the first communication interface;

making a request for a reservation of the good or the service via the first communication interface responsive to the step of accessing the reservation information;

receiving confirmation information, representing that the reservation has been made for the good or the service associated with one of the plurality of businesses, via the first communication interface responsive to the step of making the request; and

receiving electronic navigation information from the reservation communication device over a communication channel via the first communication interface responsive to the step of receiving the confirmation information.

44. A customer communication device, in a combination reservation and navigation system, comprising:

a first communication interface adapted to communicate customer information, including reservation information and electronic navigation information, between the customer communication device and a reservation communication device, wherein the reservation information represents a good or a service that may be reserved by customers from one of a plurality of businesses, wherein the electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the good or the service reserved by the customer, where the geographic location and the business location are capable of differing, and wherein the first communication interface further comprises at least one of a wireline

communication interface, a coaxial cable communication interface and a radio frequency communication interface;

a memory unit coupled to the first communication interface and adapted to store the customer information received via the first communication interface;

a location determining device coupled to [the] a controller and adapted to determine the customer geographic location associated with the customer device; and

[a] the controller coupled to the first communication interface and the memory unit and adapted to perform the steps of:

accessing the reservation information via the first communication interface;

making a request for a reservation of the good or the service via the first communication interface responsive to the step of accessing the reservation information;

receiving confirmation information, representing that the reservation has been made for the good or the service associated with one of the plurality of businesses, via the first communication interface responsive to the step of making the request; and

receiving electronic navigation information from the reservation communication device over a communication channel via the first communication interface responsive to the step of receiving the confirmation information.

In the Abstract

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A combination reservation and navigation system [(100) and corresponding method (200, 300, 400, 500)] includes a reservation communication device [(102),] and a customer communication device [(104), a business communication device (106) and a navigation communication device (108)]. The reservation communication device (102) receives reservation

information from the business communication device (106) associated with a parking facility. The reservation information represents a parking space that may be reserved by customers from the parking facility. The reservation communication device (102) organizes the reservation information according to predetermined considerations responsive to receiving the reservation information.] The reservation communication device [(102)] provides the reservation information to various customer communication devices [(104)] associated with customers responsive to organizing the reservation information. The reservation communication device [(102)] receives customer information, including a request for a reservation for the parking space, from the customer communication device [(104)] associated with a customer responsive to providing the reservation information. The reservation communication device (102) makes the reservation for the parking space associated with one of the parking facilities for the customer responsive to receiving the request for the reservation]. The reservation communication device [(102)] transmits electronic navigation information [, retrieved from the navigation communication device,] to the customer communication device [(104)] associated with the customer over a communication link responsive to the customer making the reservation. The electronic navigation information assists the customer in traveling from a customer geographic location to a business geographic location of the parking space reserved by the customer. [All of the information is communicated over the communication network (110).]